

Serial No.: 10/072,953
Atty. Docket No.: P67089US0

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed January 30, 2006, has been carefully reviewed and Applicants note with appreciation the identification of allowed subject matter.

By this Response, Applicants have canceled claims 1-10 and 18-20. Claims 11-17 are pending in the application. Claim 11 is independent.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 5-7 and 18-20 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,131,082 to Hargrave, III et al. ("Hargrave") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,301,109 to Landauer et al. ("Landauer"). The Examiner also rejected claims 8 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hargrave and Landauer and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,760,695 to Kuno et al. The Examiner objected to claim 10 as being dependent on a rejected base claim but stated that claim 10 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 11-17 are allowed.

In order to expedite prosecution and without prejudice or disclaimer, Applicants have canceled claims 1-10 and 18-20.

Claims 11-17 being allowed and being the only remaining pending claims, the application is in condition for allowance in

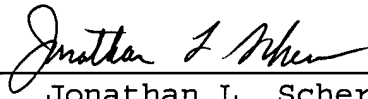
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accordance with the Examiner's indication of allowed subject matter.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, the Examiner is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned attorney so that the present application can receive an early Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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